No. 2528.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

PUBLIC.

Notification, dated Simla, 2nd July 1903.

The Governor General in Council with the previous sanction of His Majesty's Secretary State for India, is pleased to direct that in the Notification of the Government of India in t Home Department, No. 1324, dated the 2nd May 1902, for the words "Order of merit" t words "Indian Order of Merit," and for the rules published therewith the following ru shall be substituted : –

Rules for admission to the Civil Division of the Indian Order of Merit.

1. The "Indian Order of Merit" (Civil Division) consists of three classes, and is co ferred on Natives of India, whether servants of Government or not, as a reward for perso bravery shown in aid or support of the public authority or safety. The insignia are, for first class, gold ; for the second, silver with a gold wreath ; and for the third, silver only; be worn on the left breast, pendant from a dark red ribbon with blue edges.

2. Admission to the 3rd class is obtained by any conspicuous act of individual gallant admission to the 2nd class can be obtained only by members of the 3rd class, and for a simi act of gallantry ; and in like manner, the order of the 1st class is conferred only on member the 2nd class. In recommending persons for admission to the order, the act of gallantry m be particularly specified, and the statements of eye-witnesses to the deed must be attached. is of the highest importance, in view of maintaining the value and presitge of the order, the greatest discretion shall be used in submitting recommendations ; as it is very desirable t the distinction should only be granted for conduct which can clearly be defined as an ac conspicuous gallantry.

3. Admission to each class of the order rests with the Government of India alone; when the act of gallantry has taken place in India, recommendations for the reward will forwarded for submission to the Government of India, in the case of civilians through the D trict Officers to the local Government, and in the case of native officers and soldiers thro the usual military channels.

4. A record in each case of the particular act of gallantry for which the Order has b conferred is kept in the office of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Dep ment ; and a certificate signed by him, declaring the grant of the Order, will be given to individual on his admission to, or advancement in it.

5. District officers are required to report immediately to the Local Government, for c munication to the Government of India in the Home Department, any casuality by d amongst individuals admitted to the Order which may occur previous to the receipt of decoration.

6. The following are the rules for the disposal of the insignia of the Civil Division o "Indian Order of Merit" on the decease or promotions of members :—

In cases of advancement to a superior class of the Civil Division of the "Indian O of Merit," the inferior badge is to be forwarded, through the prescribed cha to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, Cal The insignia of the Order are, however, allowed to remain in the possession family of a deceased member.

7. Whenever a servant of the Government, being a member of the Order, is dis the service, and whenever any member of the Order is convicted of any such offence, or jected by a Criminal Court to any such order, as implies, in the opinion of the Local Gover a defect of character which unfits him to be a member of the Order, a full report of the c stances shall be transmitted to the Government of India in the Home Department, to with an expression of the Local Government's opinion ; and it shall, thereupen, be open Government of India to direct the dismissal of any such member from the Order and to the surrender of his decoration.

8. As a rule the conferment of the Indian Order of Merit in the Civil Division s be accompanied by any grant of money but the Government of India reserve the r making such a grant, in addition to conferring the Order, in special cases.

(Sd.) H. H. RISLEY
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of I